GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1319
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
DRUG ABUSE
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented/ formulated any prevention and early intervention strategies to combat drug abuse;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated and number of beneficiaries benefitted during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has implemented/ proposes to implement any schemes aimed at skill development for drug users to enable them to enjoy a better quality of life and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other proactive measures taken by the Government to prevent drug users from moving into higher levels of substance abuse?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)
(a) For the purpose of drug demand reduction, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been implementing the Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse. The strategy for demand reduction is three pronged:

1) Awareness building and educating people about ill effects of drug abuse.

2) Community based intervention for motivational counselling, identification, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, and

3) Training of volunteers/service providers and other stakeholders with a view to build up a committed and skilled cadre.

(b) The details of State-wise release of funds and number of beneficiaries benefitted under the above scheme during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure.

(c) & (d) The Department has taken the following steps to create awareness in society especially among young generation about the ill-effects of alcoholism and drug abuse:-

(i) Under the Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, NGOs /Voluntary organizations conduct programmes to create awareness and educate people about the ill effects of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse on the individual, family, work place and the society at large.

(ii) International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking is observed on 26th June each year. As part of this programme, rallies, paintings campaign, workshops, seminars etc are organized at the National as well as State level. On this occasion, National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse are conferred to the Individuals and Institutions to encourage them and recognize their efforts.

(iii) The National Institute for Social Defence, under the Ministry in collaboration with Regional Resource and Training Centres and other collaborating partners organizes sensitization programme in Schools and Colleges and skill development programmes for its target group including victims of drug abuse.

(iv) Information regarding ill-effects of alcoholism and drug abuse is also disseminated in regional languages through the All India Radio programme "Sanwarti Jayen Jeevan Ki Rahen" and also through advertisements in news papers.

(v) In the year 2011-12, the Ministry had conducted an awareness generation programmes in some districts of Punjab and Manipur through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), an Autonomous Organization under the Ministry of Youth Affairs. In October 2014, the Ministry has again assigned the task of awareness generation in Punjab to NYKS.